

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION AUTHORITY

To:

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## PCT

INVITATION TO RESTRICT OR  
TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 34(3) (a) and Rule 68.2)

Date of mailing (Day/month/year) <span style="float: right;">11.02.2003</span>	
Applicant's or agent's file reference -	<b>REPLY OR PAYMENT DUE</b> <span style="float: right;">within 1 month(s) from the above date of mailing</span>
International application No. PCT/JP02/05952	International filing date (day/month/year) 13/06/2002
Priority date (day/month/year) 27/06/2001	
International Patent classification (IPC) or national Patent classification: G02B1/00	
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA et al.	

**1. This International Examining Authority**

- (i) considers that **the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention** (Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated in the Annex.
- (ii) therefore considers that there are **3 inventions** claimed in the international application as indicated in the Annex.
- (iii) recalls that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1 (e)).

**2. Consequently the applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to restrict the claims as suggested under item 3, below, or to pay the amount indicated below:**

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
 1530.00 & \times & 002 \\
 \text{Fee per additional invention} & \times & \text{number of additional inventions} \\
 \hline
 & = & 3060.00 \\
 & & \text{total amount of additional fees}
 \end{array}$$

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 68.3 (c), **the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest**, i.e. a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

- 3. If the applicant opts to restrict the claims**, this Authority suggests the restriction possibilities indicated in the Annex, which in its opinion would be in compliance with the requirement of unity of invention.
- 4. In the absence of any response** from the applicant, this Authority will establish the international preliminary examination report on those parts of the international application indicated in the Annex which, in the opinion of this Authority appear to relate to the main invention.

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International application No. PCT/JP02/05952

As already mentioned in the International Search Report, the present statement of claim appears to contain three groups of inventions:

First group: Claims 1-4, 7-17, 24-43 relate to an isometric crystal for which the angle between the [001] crystallographic axis and the optical axis of an optical system comprising said isometric crystal is given.

The underlying problem to be solved is how to orientate an isometric crystal within an optical system.

The special characteristic is the angle between a crystallographic axis ([001]) of the isometric crystal and the optical axis of the optical system comprising that isometric crystal.

Second group: Claims 5-6 relate to a method for growing an isometric crystal and getting a physical face of said isometric crystal parallel to a given crystallographic plane.

The underlying problem to be solved is how to obtain an isometric crystal having a face parallel to a crystalline plane.

The special characteristic is the parallelism between a physical face of the isometric crystal and a given crystallographic plane thereof.

Third group: Claims 18-23 relate to an optical system comprising at least one element having intrinsic birefringence so that the wavefront deviation caused by the birefringence in the whole system is lower than  $\lambda/4$  ( $\lambda$  being the used wavelength).

The underlying problem to be solved is how to select the intrinsic birefringence of an optical element within an optical system to improve the image quality of said optical system.

The special feature is the intrinsic birefringence of at least one element within the optical system.

Hence, the application appears to lack unity within the meaning of Rules 13.1 and 13.2 PCT since the three above separate groups are not so linked as to form a single general

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inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT).

In the absence of response from the applicant, an international preliminary examination report will be established on those parts of the international application which appear to relate to the main invention namely the first group consisting of claims 1-4, 7-17 and 24-43.